THE 176 WG/JA LEGAL OFFICE
IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE
LOAC ADVICE AND COMPLIANCE

LOCATED IN BUILDING 37 DSN 317-626-1100 COMMERCIAL (907) 249-1100

### LOAC VIOLATIONS MAY BE COMMITTED BY FRIENDLY OR ENEMY FORCES

YOU MAY BE CRIMINALLY LIABLE FOR LOAC VIOLATIONS OR FAILING TO REPORT SUSPECTED LOAC VIOLATIONS

REPORT ALL LOAC INCIDENTS & POTENTIAL LOAC VIOLATIONS IMMEDIATELY

**MAY 2001** 

## LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT (LOAC)

INFORMATION CARD MEDICAL PERSONNEL



176 WG/JA

REPORT LOAC INCIDENTS IMMEDIATELY THROUGH YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND

### LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT FOR MEDICAL PERSONNEL

- Medical units must be located away from military
- Medical personnel are always permitted to defend themselves and their patients, but not medical facilities
- OK if arms and ammo are found on wounded
- Medical personnel who perform war-related work, such as base sentry duty, must no longer function as medical personnel and must remove armbands and special IDs
- Proper ID for medical personnel: ID card and Red Cross armband on upper left arm
- Only urgent medical reasons may be used to prioritize treatment, even if this means treating enemy wounds before your own (triage based on medical needs only)
- Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Star of David are all recognized symbols bestowing protected status to medical personnel and facilities, if not abused
- Cannot destroy, and must preserve, captured medical supplies for medical use
- Cannot transport healthy combat troops, even short

#### PRISONERS OF WAR (POWs) AND DETAINEES

- Burial of dead in individual graves to extent possible
- Cremation only (1) if hygiene requires or (2) consistent with deceased's religion
- Detained medical personnel should be released from POW camp immediately, unless needed for medical purposes
- Medical aircraft (properly marked) may not fly over enemy
- Capturing power must provide POWs medical care free of charge
- an area from attack
- Separate dormitories required for men and women POWs
- Food rations for POWs must be enough to maintain health
- POWs not captured as medics but with medical training may be forced to perform medical duties in POW camp; if so, no other work may be required of them
- Crews of medical aircraft and wounded combatants, if captured, are POWs
- Medical personnel, if captured, are not POWs

#### LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT FOR MEDICAL PERSONNEL

- Must search for and collect all wounded and sick, whether enemy or ally, as far as reasonably possible.
   Must also allow relief societies to do so
- Any misuse of Red Cross, medical personnel or transportation is a violation of LOAC. LOAC violation to use building with Red Cross for operational purposes.
- A deceptive medical facility may be attacked if intelligence confirms misuse and the enemy has been warned (if practical)
- Can only use medical transportation for military purposes if the Red Cross is removed
- To get protected status in combat zone and in POW camp, must work exclusively as medical personnel; cannot combine combat with treating sick and wounded; air rescue crews trained as medics do not get protection unless they work 100% as medics
- Sick or wounded may be abandoned to the enemy only if urgent military considerations demand it AND you

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- POWs may not be kept in a combat zone or used to shield an area from attack
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